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LETTER DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw to your attention the statement on the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict issued on 3 September 1998 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ernst SUCHARIPA
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict issued on 3 September 1998 by the Presidency of the European Union

On 24 and 27 August 1998, the Troika of the European Union, at the level of Resident Heads of Missions, undertook demarches with the Governments in Asmara and in Addis Ababa with regard to the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict. The Heads of Missions urged both parties to find a peaceful solution under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity. In doing so, they pointed out the negative implications and consequences of a re-escalation of the conflict.

The Heads of Missions also raised the question of the overall humanitarian situation and urged both parties to adhere to international humanitarian law and to human rights standards. In this context, they underlined that non-adherence to international humanitarian law would be detrimental to the peace process and to confidence-building.

The European Union will continue to draw attention to the humanitarian situation of foreign nationals in both countries. The European Union appreciates the willingness of both countries to cooperate with humanitarian agencies.

The European Union also reiterates its appreciation for the military restraint of both countries and re-emphasizes its urging to both parties to continue this military restraint. The European Union would like to express its appreciation for the fact that no fighting has taken place since 15 June 1998.

The Central and Eastern European countries and Cyprus associated with the European Union and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.